

Letter to the Editor

Importance of epicardial adipose tissue thickness in obese adolescents

Dear Editor,

We read the article titled "Importance of epicardial adipose tissue thickness measurement in obese adolescents, its relationship with carotid intima-media thickness, and echocardiographic findings" by Boyraz et al¹ with great interest. However, we would like to make a few suggestions regarding the analysis and presentation of data.

First, in Table I the standard deviation (SD) of some parameters, for example HOMA-IR, LDL-C and triglyceride levels are so large that it renders interpretation of data ambiguous. Such large SD would bring the normal distribution of the data into question, which in turn, would alter the selection of statistical tests. Also, the authors¹ indicate that unpaired Student's *t*-test was used to evaluate the three groups within the cohort; namely lean, mild-moderate obese and severe obese patients, in pairs. However, in cases with more than three independent groups, the preferred methodology must be an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) followed by post-hoc analysis if statistical significance is achieved. This further complicates interpretation of the *p*-values, which we would have preferred to be provided in a separate column next to the data analyzed; rather than at the bottom of the table.

Second, the title of Table III is "Tissue Doppler echocardiography measurements in lean, and mild-moderate and severely obese groups". However, there is no data provided regarding lean patients. Furthermore, instead of measurements, a bunch of "r" correlation coefficients and their respective *p*-values are provided. In another words, the title of the table and the contents are irrelevant.

Last, although the multivariate regression analysis of the epicardial adipose tissue thickness is provided in Table IV, their correlation with measurements made within groups is not present. We are deducing that Table III was actually aiming to provide the correlations between epicardial adipose thickness and other measured parameters. Is this the case?

We believe that Boyraz et al¹ selected a great topic for exploration and would like to congratulate them for their efforts in shedding more light on this important matter.

Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

References

- 1) BOYRAZ M, PIRGON O, AKYOL B, DUNDAR B, CEKMEZ F, EREN N. Importance of epicardial adipose tissue thickness measurement in obese adolescents, its relationship with carotid intima-media thickness, and echocardiographic findings. *Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci* 2013; 17: 3309-3317.

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